Purchase of Ultrasonic Rail Testing Car

†1098. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to buy Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Car for examination of rail tracks, so that rail accidents can be checked;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be incurred on the above work[1]?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Procurement of 2 nos. of high speed Self-Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing (SPURT) Car have been sanctioned one each in Works programme of 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(c) The likely cost to be incurred on procurement of these two SPURT Cars is approx. Rs. 34.5 crore.

Reservation Terminals to Railway Agents

1099. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway authorities have been resisting for several years all attempts to give terminals to Private operators, apprehending mat they would block tickets;

(b) Whether there is a proposal to give passenger Reservation Terminals to Railway agents;

(c) whether Government are aware mat if this scheme is implemented, passengers, particularly long distance passengers, would face serious problems; and

(d) if so, why do Government opt for such a measure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) It is a fact that the requests for allotment of

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

computerised Passenger Reservation System Termainal to RTSAs/RTAs was considered in past but could not be agreed to.

(b) to (d) There is a proposal to provide Passenger Reservation System (PRS) terminals on an experimental basis to travel agents authorised under Rail Tourist Agents Scheme and Railway Travellers' Service Agents Scheme of the railways at the party's cost and with suitable safeguards etc. in order to facilitate rail reservation to common man. The provision of this facility would result in availability of more reservation counters, reduced waiting time for purchasing tickets, etc.

Unmanned Railway Crossings in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

1100. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of unmanned railway crossings in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) how many accidents have taken place during the last two years on those corssings; and

(c) what is the number of such corssings proposed to be manned during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a)

Uttar Pradesh	-	3778 Nos.
Bihar	-	1927 Nos.
Total	-	5705 Nos.

(b) Accident statistics on Indian Railway are maintained Railway Zone-wise and not State-wise. Figures for the last two years about consequential accidents at unmanned Railway corssings on the Zonal Railways parts of which form parts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar States, are as follows:

Year	Central Railway	Eastern Railway	Northern Railway	North Eastern Railway	North-East Frontier - Railway	Sourth Eastern Railway	Western Railway	Total
1997-98	1	—	10	8	2	5	9	35
1998-99	3	1	9	4	2	8	6	33
1999-2000 Upto Oct.99	5	—	3	9	3	—	2	22